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DCI STATEMENT REBUTS SENATORS' COMPLAINTS ABOUT OVERSIGHT PROCESS

Director of Central Intelligence William J. Casey today released the following statement:

"The statements attributed to Senators Durenberger and Leahy in THE WASHINGTON POST on 19 May require a response. It is not true that I ever participated in any attack on the oversight process. I firmly believe in and am committed to Congressional oversight. I believe that the current committees are performing that function well.

Both Senator Durenberger and Senator Leahy have been told clearly that my concern is with the damage to national security resulting from their public comment on sensitive information. I have detailed to them specific instances of this and shared those specific instances with other members of the Senate Intelligence Committee. I have reason to believe that other members of the committee share my concern.

I cannot quietly permit concern for protecting information provided in closed briefings in the oversight process to be presented as resistance to a process I fully support."

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